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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4176

INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC PRIORITY

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 003560

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE, NSC FOR ABRAMS/DORAN/WATERS, USAID  
FOR KUNDER/MCCLOUD/BORODIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MGGZ01 - JERUSALEM AUGUST 11 SITREP

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: Israeli military operations destroyed three homes in Gaza on August 10-11; there were no reports of fatalities. An Italian tourist was stabbed to death in Jerusalem on August 10 in what Israeli officials are describing as a "possible terror attack." In the West Bank, three Palestinians were arrested on August 10-11. The Rafah, Karni/al-Mintar, and Nahal Oz crossings are open August 11.  
END SUMMARY.

#### Military Developments

2. (SBU) According to the PA president's office, the IAF bombed three houses overnight in Gaza; no injuries or fatalities were reported. Israeli security sources told the media that one of the houses was bombed in an attempt to kill its owner, a member of the Popular Resistance Committee.

3. (SBU) In Jerusalem on the evening of August 10, Israeli media reported an Italian tourist was stabbed and killed outside the Old City. Israeli police told the media they suspect the killer was an Arab youth and that his motivation was political. The media quoted unnamed Palestinian sources as denying that the killer was Palestinian.

4. (SBU) In the West Bank, the IDF arrested a Hamas activist near the city of Tulkarem on August 10 according to the PA president's office. On August 11, Israeli media reported that two Islamic Jihad militants were arrested near Jericho.

#### Humanitarian Update

5. (SBU) Nazmi Muhanna, head of the General Administration of Crossings and Borders, told ConGen FSN political specialist that the Rafah crossing opened August 11 at 0845 local for limited departures, allowing students, workers with foreign permits, foreigners, and medical cases to exit. Rafah had opened August 10 for the same categories but closed early at 1230 local due to security concerns. Muhanna reported that 1,670 people had departed Rafah August 10.

6. (SBU) Both the Karni/al-Mintar and Nahal Oz crossings are open August 11, according to Gaza-based USAID staff.

7. (SBU) All ten electricity feeder lines from Israel into Gaza are operational August 11.

WALLES